

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Tonawanda Coke Corporation - Removal Polrep  
Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region II

**Subject:** POLREP #1  
PJ1  
Tonawanda Coke Corporation  
0201601  
Tonawanda, NY

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**From:** Dwayne Harrington, OSC

**Date:** 10/15/2018

**Reporting Period:** October 12-14, 2018

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

|                     |              |                         |            |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Site Number:        | A28U         | Contract Number:        |            |
| D.O. Number:        |              | Action Memo Date:       |            |
| Response Authority: | CERCLA       | Response Type:          | Emergency  |
| Response Lead:      | STATE        | Incident Category:      |            |
| NPL Status:         | Non NPL      | Operable Unit:          |            |
| Mobilization Date:  | 10/13/2018   | Start Date:             | 10/13/2018 |
| Demob Date:         |              | Completion Date:        |            |
| CERCLIS ID:         | NYD088413877 | RCRIS ID:               |            |
| ERNS No.:           |              | State Notification:     | Yes        |
| FPN#:               |              | Reimbursable Account #: |            |

1 Incident Category

1.1 Emergency Response

1.1.2 Site Description

The facility is an industrial coke plant; approximately 160 acres in an industrial area. The facility has been in operation for approximately 100 years. The 30 currently operating coke ovens have been in use since early 1960.

1.1.2.1 Location

The facility is located at 3875 River Rd, Tonawanda, Erie County, New York. The area is an industrial area adjacent to the Niagara River. The nearest residence is located approximately 0.25 miles away.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

There is an immediate threat of release of hazardous substances during the shutdown of coke operations

creating a potential for fire and explosion due to extreme state of disrepair of the system and the generation of flammable gases. A full removal site evaluation will be conducted and addressed following facility shutdown.

### 1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

EPA and NYSDEC personnel are currently on site during coke oven process shutdown. DEC referred the site to EPA to conduct a complete assessment following the shutdown operations. EPA is assisting DEC during shutdown operations by conducting 24-hour real time air monitoring. EPA is also on-site during the shut down to assess the potential for releases and gather information on facility operations, which will assist in the requested assessment of potential additional removal action needs.

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

#### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

On October 13, 2018, at the request of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), EPA and their contractor mobilized to perform area air surveillance during the facility's planned purging and flaring of their coke oven batteries and 113,000 cubic feet coke oven gas sphere, and assist NYSDEC in overseeing facility shutdown operations.

In addition to continuing to ensure all stations established yesterday were running properly, OSC and ERT met with the Superintendent for Grand Island Central Schools about placing a station at the William Kaegebein Elementary School. That location was approved by the Superintendent with the agreed upon condition that we provide the school a set of the validated results after the response phase is concluded. With the establishment of that location, we now have all 6 stations fully operational.

TCP 01 - Tonawanda Coke Plant Guardhouse – On the Southwest corner of the Plant

TCP 02 - River Road Volunteer Fire Stations – South of plant, adjoining a small residential area. Located in the side yard next to the fire station

TCP 03 - Sheridan Fire District – behind the firehouse secured to the fencing surrounding their emergency generator

TCP 04 – DEC Grand Island Boulevard Station – NE of Plant. Semi-permanent trailer established by DEC for their historic benzene monitoring (no live transmittal of data) and sampling program (once every 6 days)

TCP 05 – DEC Brookside Terrace Station - NE of Plant in a residential neighborhood. Semi-permanent trailer established by DEC for their historic benzene monitoring (no live transmittal of data) and sampling program (once every 6 days)

TCP 06 - William Kaegebein Elementary School – NW of plant, in a residential neighborhood. Station is placed in the courtyard of the school at the request of the Superintendent to ensure the security of the equipment.

#### 2.1.3 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

ORC continues discussion with facility management.

#### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

| <i>Waste Stream</i> | <i>Medium</i> | <i>Quantity</i> | <i>Manifest #</i> | <i>Treatment</i> | <i>Disposal</i> |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
|                     |               |                 |                   |                  |                 |
|                     |               |                 |                   |                  |                 |
|                     |               |                 |                   |                  |                 |

### 2.2 Planning Section

#### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

Area air monitoring and sampling will continue throughout the coke oven and gas sphere purging process.

#### 2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

#### 2.2.1.2 Next Steps

Following shutdown and purging of the coke process, EPA will assess the potential public and environmental threats presented by the site.

#### 2.2.2 Issues

### 2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

### 2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

### 2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

## 3. Participating Entities

### 3.1 Unified Command

### **3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

EPA is coordinating with NYSDEC during facility shutdown.

### **4. Personnel On Site**

Three EPA OSCs, one ERT member, and four ERT-SERAS staff are on site.

### **5. Definition of Terms**

No information available at this time.

### **6. Additional sources of information**

No information available at this time.

### **7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.